

PRESENTATION TITLE: *Frameworks From The Borderlands For Building Student Movements*

NAMES: *Joe Anthony Cruz, Katelyn Walsh, Laura Waxman, Diana Castillo, Akshan Shah, Julissa Martinez*

FACULTY SPONSOR: *Patricia Rodriguez*

ABSTRACT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PRESENTATION:

According to the School of the America's Watch website, "At the heart of this year's School of the Americas Watch Border Encuentro in Nogales, Arizona was increasing awareness of the militarization and expansion of the US-Mexico border throughout Latin America and inside the United States. As well as the criminalization of immigrants, asylum-seekers refugees and people of color."

In the wake of these developments in the American Southwest, human rights organizations have emerged in unique ways and places. A main hub for these activists, artists, healers and allies is Nogales, Arizona. One of the factors of this formation of a centralized place for building new consciousness is the close proximity to the sanctuary city of Tucson, Arizona. Over Thanksgiving Break, Ithaca College students, faculty and local community members travelled to this land in order to participate in the convergence of movements hosted by School of the Americas Watch organization.

The legacy of systemic injustices towards indigenous groups and other settlers of color have drastically formed the social, political and urban landscape of Tucson, Az. Figures like the murdered 16-year-old, Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez have become martyrs for young people in these militarized borderlands especially. The violent responses at the legislative level to violent acts of injustices at the local level have compelled youth across the nation to hold leaders in these disenfranchised communities accountable.

This oral presentation will inform the campus community on how to effectively and efficiently recognize injustices, gather as a coalition and ethically respond to humanitarian and environmental injustices.

The powerhouses of broadcasted content production in the modern American media landscape have impacted the public's understanding of the nuanced state of human migration in and out of the United States in 2019. Understanding the key themes explored by Todd Miller in "Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration, and Homeland Security" informed the impressions of the senior cohort of Park Scholars. Amidst the news of mass deportations and robust plans to strengthen the boundaries of the country, students from all backgrounds and institutions witness the lived experiences of people living in the borderlands of the U.S.

These key themes were paired with the impactful takeaways that emerged from the immersive service-based learning trip to Tucson, Arizona including judiciary, indigenous, environmental, and humanized perspectives. It became clear that the constructions of identity and politics expressed by Miller manifested themselves in thought-provoking ways along the current Nogales, Arizona border wall; the several intersections of citizenship, militarization and global changes affecting ecosystems were studied by this cohort in order to more ethically navigate the role of the U.S. in the grand scheme of contemporary immigration patterns.

We, as scholars from various disciplines and intersecting identities gravitated towards specific parts of the places and people we learned from. These experiences were captured through different mediums in order to participate in the exercises of sense-making and solutions-building. These solutions will arrive at the questions around legislations that are not easily understood such as the difference between immigrants and refugees, where people who resettle in this country come from, and what lies ahead for the demographic make up of the United States.